

March 8, 2006

Dear Member of Congress,

As organizations committed to the rule of law and the enforcement of those laws, we write today urging your support of the "Internet Gambling Prohibition Act" (H.R. 4777) sponsored by Congress Bob Goodlatte of Virginia and "The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2005" (H.R. 4411) sponsored by Congressman James Leach of Iowa.

In 1999, the National Gambling Impact Study Commission released its report addressing the social and economic impact associated with gambling. One area of gambling investigated by the Commission was Internet gambling. The Commission reported that efforts preventing underage and pathological gambling were "particularly challenging" due to the high level of anonymity afforded Internet gamblers.

The Commission further acknowledged that "general concerns about the relationship between gambling and crime...become particularly acute when considering gambling on the Internet." These general concerns and others regarding the broader damage inflicted upon society by Internet gambling compel us to ask for your support of legislation that addresses these concerns.

Currently no state has authorized Internet gambling, and federal laws support state efforts for enforcement. However, a lucrative international gambling industry greatly undermines the efforts of state and federal agencies to uphold our domestic laws. Furthermore, current federal statute governing this activity has proven to be ambiguous and out-of-date. This has all led to the false perception that Internet gambling is legal, and the result is the entrapment of our youth and society at large by this destructive activity.

The proposed measures would provide law enforcement agencies and financial institutions common-sense tools necessary to identify and prevent unlawful Internet gambling. Gambling businesses and financial institutions would be prohibited from receiving or approving financial transactions for the purpose of Internet gambling. Law enforcement officials would be granted new injunctive authority to prevent the intentional or unintentional violation of the law. Congressman Goodlatte's legislation provides important additional provisions to update the "Wire Act" to encompass other styles of Internet gambling and new technologies.

These provisions found in both H.R. 4777 and H.R. 4411 assert the government's authority to enforce the laws needed to deter and prosecute illegal Internet gambling. A nation of laws must find those laws enforced by all means necessary and legal. Please support the enforcement of illegal Internet gambling by supporting "The Internet Gambling Prohibition Act" and "The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2005."

Respectfully,

American Association of Christian Schools

American Family Association of Indiana

American Family Association of Pennsylvania

American Values

Arkansas Family Council

Center for Moral Clarity

Citizens for Community Values

Eagle Forum

Family Leader Network

Family Protection Lobby - Maryland

Family Research Council

Family Resource Network

Focus on the Family

Hawaii Family Forum

Illinois Family Institute

Iowa Family Policy Center

Louisiana Family Forum

Massachusetts Family Institute

Minnesota Family Council

Network of Politically Active Christians

New Jersey Family Policy Council

North Carolina Family Policy Council

Religious Freedom Coalition

Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Stronger Families for Oregon

The Center for Arizona Policy

The Family Foundation (Kentucky)

The Family Research Institute of Wisconsin

United Families Idaho